

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are now present in this application.

Claims 1-4 and 6-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of Lu, U.S. Patent 6,780,124 and Helmstetter et al., U.S. Patent 6,238,302. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of Lu and Helmstetter et al., and further in view of Su, U.S. Patent 5,713,800. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-9 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Lu. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Lu in view of the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Lu in view of Su. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 10 and 18 are characterized in that a golf club head includes a body having a recession, and a striking plate having a perimeter, wherein positioning protrusions are integrally formed on either of the outer perimeter of the striking plate or the inner perimeter of the recess of the body. Furthermore, the positioning protrusions are disposed in a gap of a welding channel and are engaged between the recess of the body and the striking plate. Also, claims 19-21, which depend from claims 1, 18 and 10, respectively, also set forth that the protrusions are arranged in a same plane as the striking plate.

In contrast, the patent to Lu fails to disclose positioning protrusions, but instead discloses supporting rods 21. It is noted that the supporting rods require forming a series of engaging notches 121, such that the supporting rods are inconsistent with the positioning protrusions found in the present application. The Examiner's attention is drawn to the fact that, in Lu, the supporting rods 21 are not disposed in a gap and engaged between the recess of the body and the striking plate, and are also not arranged in the same plane as the striking plate. It is apparent from Fig. 4 of Lu that the supporting rods 21 are now disposed in a gap formed between the body 10 and the striking plate 20, but are instead disposed in associated engaging notch 121.

With regard to Helmstetter, this patent discloses compressible tabs 100 formed on an outer perimeter 120 of the insert 60, as can be seen in Figs. 11A and 12B. However, the compressible tabs 100 are made from a thermoset material and are not comparable to the metal positioning protrusions disclosed in the present application.

With regard to Su, this patent fails to teach or suggest positioning protrusions of the striking plate being disposed in a gap and engaged between the recess of the body and the striking plate for a welding procedure.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the prior art utilized by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests positioning protrusions being disposed in a gap of a welding channel, engaged between the recess of the body and the striking plate, and arranged in the same plane as the striking plate. One of ordinary skill in the art, in the absence of hindsight, could not have conceived of using the supporting rods 20 of Lu, tabs 110 of Helmstetter, and teeth 25 of Su, to achieve the engaging structure found in the present application.

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Amendment dated April 6, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 6, 2006

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Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 103 rejections are therefore respectfully requested.

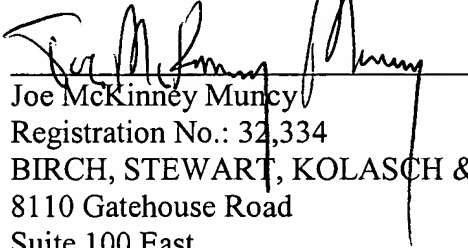
Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: April 6, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe McKinney Muncy", is written over a horizontal line.

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